

Guiding in New Westminster - -from *Sixty Years and More* compiled by Girl Guides of Canada / Guides du Canada - British Columbia Council for the Sixty year celebration of Guiding in Canada.

Now we move to New Westminster on the Fraser River. The first company was formed by Mme. Govereau in April 1920, with twelve girls. It was not easy to run a company in those days, as few people had much knowledge of the Movement, and all were administered from Toronto. The provincial Office was started in a small way in 1922, and Mrs. John Heaps was asked to succeed Mme. Govereau, who had resigned. Mrs. Heaps writes: "Handing over hat, belt, cockade and cords, she left me to it". Mrs. Heaps escorted fifteen Guides to the Provincial Rally in Duncan in July, and remembers it as an 'enjoyable experience'.

Brownies were started, and in 1923 the first local association was formed. That same year the girls journeyed over to the Rally for Lady Baden-Powell in Mrs. Brock's garden (remember the currant buns?) and received their Registration Certificate from Lady Baden-Powell in person.

One way the hard-working local association raised funds was to provide a sit-down supper for 300 local (new Westminster) and Burnaby Scouts and Guides...another less strenuous way was renting out silver flat-ware at so much per dozen. In October that year, Mrs. Warren, Chief Commissioner for Canada, visited British Columbia and a marchpast and service was held in St. Paul's church. In 1925 another company was formed at Sapperton and in 1926 a Brownie Pack. A Brownie hat with a feather was designed by Mrs. F. Campbell and later adopted as the official Brownie hat for Canada.

New Westminster Guides attended the Dominion Jubilee Camp in Victoria, "an unforgettable two weeks". A Ranger Company was formed in 1928, and helped greatly by providing four Guiders! On May Day that year the Guides formed a Guard of Honour for Lord and Lady Willingdon, and the Brownies made a ring around their Excellencies as they planted a tree.

A notable project undertaken was the formation of a Scout and Guide Toy Shop, started one Christmas but carried on for many years, after it had proved its usefulness to many hundreds of families. It kept the idea of service before every girl and boy who worked for it.

Guide and Brownies were frequently called up to form Honour Guards for visiting dignitaries such as Lord and Lady Bessborough in 1932 and the Queen and Prince Phillip in 1959. On the latter occasion they were joined by Cubs, Scouts and the Sea Rangers of S.R.S. Fraser, formed in 1952. Friends of the Fraser at the firehall in New Westminster built them a training boat in their own time, and it was launched in June of '53 and moored at Deer Lake.